

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Environmental Assessment

**DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2015-0110-EA
QEP Energy Company's RW 24-14AGR Pipeline Reroute**

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management



Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2015-0110-EA
QEP Energy Company's RW 24-14AGR Pipeline
Reroute

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

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Table of Contents

Finding of No Significant Impact	ix
Finding of No Significant Impact:	ix
Signatures:	ix
Decision Record - Memorandum	xi
Selected Action:	xi
Conditions of Approval:	xi
Rationale:	xi
Land Use Plan Conformance:	xii
Public Involvement:	xii
Alternatives Considered:	xii
Appeal or Protest Opportunities:	xii
Signature:	xiii
1. Introduction	1
1.1. Identifying Information:	1
1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project:	1
1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action:	1
1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office:	1
1.1.4. Identify the subject function code, lease, serial, or case file number:	1
1.1.5. Applicant Name:	2
1.2. Purpose and Need for Action:	2
1.3. Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues:	2
2. Proposed Action and Alternatives	3
2.1. Description of the Proposed Action:	5
2.1.1. Access	5
2.1.2. Pipelines	5
2.1.3. Reclamation	5
2.1.4. Applicant Committed Environmental Protection Measures (ACEPMS)	5
2.1.4.1. Cultural Resources	5
2.1.4.2. Paleontological Resources	5
2.1.4.3. Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)	6
2.2. No Action Alternative	6
2.3. Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail	6
2.4. Conformance	6
2.5. Relationships to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans	7
2.5.1. Federal Laws and Statutes	7
2.5.2. State and Local Laws and Statutes	7
3. Affected Environment:	9

3.1. BLM Sensitive Plants	11
4. Environmental Effects:	13
4.1. Direct and Indirect Impacts	15
4.2. Proposed Action	15
4.2.1. BLM Sensitive Plants	15
4.3. No Action Alternative	16
4.3.1. Plants: BLM Sensitive	16
4.3.1.1. BLM Sensitive Plants	16
4.4. Reasonably Foreseeable Development and Cumulative Impacts Analysis	16
4.4.1. Cumulative Impacts	16
4.4.2. Plants: BLM Sensitive	16
5. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted:	17
6. List of Preparers	21
7. References Cited	25
Appendix A. Interdisciplinary Team Checklist	29
Appendix B.	35
Appendix C.	37

List of Figures

Figure B.1. 35

Figure C.1. 37

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List of Tables

Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted	19
Table 6.1. List of Preparers	23
Table A.1.	29
Table A.2.	34

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Finding of No Significant Impact

Finding of No Significant Impact:

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2015-0110-EA, I have determined that the proposed action will not have any significant impacts on the environment, and an environmental impact statement is not required.

Signatures:

Recommended by:

Kevin Sadlier	[Date]
Natural Resource Specialist	

Approved by:

/s/ Jerry Kenczka	June 11, 2015
AFM for Minerals	[Date]

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Decision Record - Memorandum

Selected Action:

It is my decision to approve QEP Energy Company's proposal to extend the pipeline for the RW 24-14AGR an additional 3,765 feet. The project is located in sections 25 and 26, T. 7 S., R 22 E., Uintah County, Utah. The project area is located approximately 20 miles south of Vernal, Utah. There will be 2.59 acres of disturbance is associated with this project. This decision is subject to the below conditions of approval.

Conditions of Approval:

This decision is contingent on meeting all stipulations and monitoring requirements listed below, which were designed to minimize and/or avoid impacts.

- If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during construction, the Operator will immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials and contact the Authorized Officer.
- QEP will educate its contractors and employees about the relevant federal regulations intended to protect paleontological and cultural resources. All vehicular traffic, personnel movement, construction, and restoration activities will be confined to areas cleared by the site inventory and to existing roads. If any potential paleontological or cultural resources are uncovered during construction, work will stop immediately in the area and the appropriate BLM AO will be notified.
- All vehicles and equipment shall be cleaned either through power-washing, or other approved method, if the vehicles or equipment were brought in from areas outside the Uinta Basin, to prevent weed seed introduction.
- QEP has agreed not to construct or drill from March 1 to August 31 for burrowing owl nesting unless otherwise determined by the Authorized Officer
- Site inventory surveys would be valid for 4 years from the survey date. If more than 4 years pass between the original survey date and construction, a new clearance survey/site inventory would be required. If construction is to occur within the 4-year window, and at least 1 year after the initial survey date, an additional spot check survey would be required following the methodology established by BLM regarding horseshoe milkvetch survey data use timing restrictions. Review of spot checks may result in requirements for additional pre-construction plant surveys or other requirements as directed by the BLM Authorized Officer (AO).

Rationale:

The subject lands were leased for oil or gas development under authority of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as modified by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987. The lessee/operator has the right to explore for oil and gas on the lease as specified in 43 CFR 3103.1-2, and if a discovery is made, to produce oil and/or natural gas for economic gain.

The selected alternative meets the BLM's need to acknowledge and allow development of valid existing leases. The BLM objective to reduce impacts is met by the imposing of mitigation measures to protect other resource values.

Land Use Plan Conformance:

The selected alternative is in conformance with the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (BLM 2008).

The selected alternative is consistent with *Uintah County General Plan* (published in 2007) that encompasses the location of the proposed wells. In general, the plan indicates support for development proposals such as the selected alternative through the plan's emphasis of multiple-use public land management practices, responsible use and optimum utilization.

There are no comprehensive State of Utah plans for the vicinity of the selected alternative. However, the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) have leased much of the nearby state land for oil and gas production. Because the objectives of SITLA are to produce funding for the state school system, and because production on federal leases could further interest in drilling on state leases in the area, it is assumed that the selected alternative is consistent with the objectives of the State.

Public Involvement:

The proposed project was posted on the Eplanning NEPA Register on April 22, 2015. No organizations requested more information on the project.

Alternatives Considered:

The EA analyzed the proposed action and no action alternatives. Onsite visits were conducted by Vernal Field Office Personnel. The onsite inspection reports do not indicate that any other locations be proposed for analysis. The no action alternative was not selected because it would not best meet the BLM's need to acknowledge and allow development of valid existing leases.

Appeal or Protest Opportunities:

This decision is effective upon the date it is signed by the authorized officer. The decision is subject to appeal. Under BLM regulation, this decision is subject to administrative review in accordance with 43 CFR 3165. Any request for administrative review of this decision must include information required under 43 CFR 3165.3(b) (State Director Review), including all supporting documentation. Such a request must be filed in writing with the State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84145-0155, within 20 business days of the date this Decision is received or considered to have been received.

If you wish to file a petition for stay, the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;

3. The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted; and,
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Signature:

Authorizing Official:

Jery Kenczka
Associate Field Manager

June 11, 2015
Date

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Chapter 1. Introduction

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1.1. Identifying Information:

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts related to extend the pipeline for the RW 24–14AGR an additional 3,765 feet. The proposed project is located in sections 25 and 26, T. 7 S., R 22 E., Uintah County, Utah. The project area is located approximately 20 miles south of Vernal, Utah. There will be 2.59 acres of disturbance are associated with this project.

The EA is a site-specific analysis of potential impacts that could result from the implementation of the Proposed Action or alternatives to the Proposed Action. The EA assists the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any “significant” impacts could result from the analyzed actions. (“Significance” is defined by NEPA and is found in regulation 40 CFR 1508.27.) An EA provides evidence for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) statement. A FONSI statement is a document that briefly presents the reasons why implementation of the selected alternative would not result in “significant” environmental impacts (effects) beyond those already addressed in Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan (BLM 2008). If the decision maker determines that this project has “significant” impacts following the analysis in the EA, then an EIS would be prepared for the project. If not, a Decision Record (DR) may be signed for the EA approving the alternative selected.

1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project:

Title: QEP Energy Company’s RW 24–14AGR pipeline reroute

NEPA #: DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2015-0110–EA

Project Type: Environmental Assessment

1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action:

The proposed project is located in sections 25 and 26, T. 7 S., R 22 E., Uintah County, Utah. The project area is located approximately 20 miles south of Vernal, Utah.

1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office:

Vernal Field Office

170 South 500 East

Vernal, Ut 84078

(435) 781–4400

1.1.4. Identify the subject function code, lease, serial, or case file number:

Lease Number: UTU-0569

1.1.5. Applicant Name:

QEP Energy Company

1.2. Purpose and Need for Action:

Private exploration and production from federal oil and gas leases is an integral part of the BLM oil and gas leasing program under authority of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987. The operator has a valid existing right to extract mineral resources from their RW Unit subject to the lease's terms and conditions. The BLM oil and gas leasing program encourages development of domestic oil and gas reserves and the reduction of U.S. dependence on foreign energy sources. The BLM's purpose is to allow beneficial use of the applicant's lease in an environmentally sound manner.

1.3. Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues:

The proposed project was posted on the Eplanning NEPA Register on April 22, 2015. No comments have been received.

Chapter 2. Proposed Action and Alternatives

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2.1. Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed project would extend the pipeline for the RW 24–14AGR an additional 3,765 feet. The proposed project is located in sections 25 and 26, T. 7 S., R 22 E., Uintah County, Utah. The project area is located approximately 20 miles south of Vernal, Utah. There will be 2.59 acres of disturbance are associated with this project.

QEP is proposing a 30 foot construction access width and a 30 foot permanent access width.

???

2.1.1. Access

All of the access roads for this project would be existing or have been approved in previous NEPA documents.

2.1.2. Pipelines

There would be 3,765 feet of surface 10 inch or smaller steel pipeline installed for this project on BLM lands.

QEP is proposing a 30' construction access width and a 30' permanent access width. The pipeline would be constructed on existing or previously approved disturbance, such as the access roads or well pads and then boomed into place.

2.1.3. Reclamation

Reclamation for this project was approved with the original APD.

2.1.4. Applicant Committed Environmental Protection Measures (ACEPMS)

In addition to ACEPMS in the original APD's QEP and QEPFS also agrees to implement the following measures.

2.1.4.1. Cultural Resources

Archeological surveys were conducted by Montgomery Archaeology Consultants and Outlaw Engineering Inc. Copies of the reports have been submitted directly to the appropriate agencies. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during construction, the Operator is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials and contact the Authorized Officer.

2.1.4.2. Paleontological Resources

Paleontological surveys have been conducted by Intermountain Paleo Consulting. A copy of this report was submitted to the BLM by Stephen D. Sandau. The surveys resulted in finding of no scientifically important fossil resources. However, if vertebrate fossils are found

during construction a paleontologist would be immediately notified, and QEP would provide a Paleontological monitor if needed.

2.1.4.3. Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)

QEP has agreed not to construct or drill from March 1 to August 31 for burrowing owl nesting unless otherwise determined by the Authorized Officer.

2.2. No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, BLM would not approve the sundry notice for the RW 24-14AGR in sections 25 and 26, T. 7 S., R 22 E., Uintah County, Utah. QEP would not be allowed to make changes to pipeline route federal land.

The BLM's authority to implement the No Action Alternative may be limited because oil and gas leases allow drilling in the lease area subject to the stipulations of the specific lease agreement. The BLM can deny the sundries if these would violate lease stipulations and applicable laws and/or regulations. The BLM can also impose conditions of approval to prevent undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. If the BLM were to deny the sundries, the applicant could attempt to reverse the BLM's decision through administrative appeals, seek to exchange its lease for leases in other locations, or seek compensation from the federal government. The outcome of these actions is beyond the scope of this EA because they cannot be projected or meaningfully analyzed at this time.

2.3. Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail

There were no other alternatives identified aside from the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives that would meet the purpose and need of this project.

2.4. Conformance

The alternatives are in conformance with the Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (October 31, 2008) and the terms of the lease. The RMP/ROD decision allows leasing of oil and gas while protecting or mitigating other resource values (RMP/ROD p. 97-99). The Minerals and Energy Resources Management Objectives encourage the drilling of oil and gas wells by private industry (RMP/ROD, p. 97). The RMP/ROD decision also allows for processing applications, permits, operating plans, mineral exchanges, and leases on public lands in accordance with policy and guidance and allows for management of public lands to support goals and objectives of other resources programs, respond to public requests for land use authorizations, and acquire administrative and public access where necessary (RMP/ROD p. 86). It has been determined that the proposed action and alternative(s) would not conflict with other decisions throughout the plan. .

2.5. Relationships to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans

2.5.1. Federal Laws and Statutes

The subject lands were leased for oil or gas development under authority of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as modified by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987. The lessee/operator has the right to explore for oil and gas on the lease as specified in 43 CFR 3103.1-2, and if a discovery is made, to produce oil and/or natural gas for economic gain.

2.5.2. State and Local Laws and Statutes

There are no comprehensive State of Utah plans for the vicinity of the Proposed Action.

The proposed project is consistent with the *Uintah County General Plan, 2011* (Plan) that encompasses the location of the proposed well. In general, the Plan indicates support for development proposals such as the Proposed Action through the Plan's emphasis on multiple-use public land management practices, responsible use and optimum utilization.

The State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) have leased much of the nearby state land for oil and gas production. Because the objectives of SITLA are to produce funding for the state school system, and because production on federal leases could further interest in drilling on state leases in the area, it is assumed that the alternatives analyzed, except the No Action Alternative, are consistent with the objectives of the state.

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Chapter 3. Affected Environment:

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The BLM ID Team evaluated the Project Area. The checklist indicates which resources of concern are present, which resources would be affected by the Proposed Action and require analysis in the EA, and which resources are either not present in the Project Area or would not be affected to a degree that requires detailed analysis. The description of the affected environment in this section focuses on those resources identified as “PI” (present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA) in the ID Team Checklist.

3.1. BLM Sensitive Plants

The Utah BLM maintains a statewide sensitive species list, which includes species of conservation interest for the BLM within the state of Utah that are monitored and protected to ensure that federal actions do not result in an Endangered Species Act (ESA) designation of those species.

Suitable habitat for horseshoe milkvetch (*Astragalus equisolensis*) is present throughout the Project Area and individuals and populations of this species have been documented in the Project Area per BLM GIS review. QEP conducted clearance surveys, and no individuals or populations of horseshoe milkvetch were observed in the areas proposed for development (Bowen Collins 2014). Surveys conducted in Utah in 1992 estimated the population at 10,000. As of 2006 there was no recent information indicating the population of horseshoe milkvetch has declined. The species is known from a very limited range in Uintah County; it is a perennial herb in the pea family and blooms from late April to early June. Horseshoe milkvetch grows on river terrace sands and gravels overlying the Duchesne River Formation and on sandy to silty weathered soils (71 FR 53756).

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Chapter 4. Environmental Effects:

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4.1. Direct and Indirect Impacts

The potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts from Alternative A (the Proposed Action) and Alternative B (the No Action Alternative) are discussed in the following sections of Chapter 4.

4.2. Proposed Action

4.2.1. BLM Sensitive Plants

The Proposed Action would result in 2.59 acres additional surface disturbance resulting from construction and development. Clearance surveys did not identify any horseshoe milkvetch individuals or populations in areas proposed for development.

Direct impacts to horseshoe milkvetch would be possible habitat fragmentation due to increased road traffic.

Indirect impacts to horseshoe milkvetch would include the invasion and establishment of introduced, undesirable plant species which could limit the extent of suitable habitat for horseshoe milkvetch. The extent and severity of these invasions would depend on the success of reclamation and revegetation and the degree and success of noxious weed control efforts. Changes in surface water flow regimes associated with sedimentation and precipitation may also indirectly affect horseshoe milkvetch which is not tolerant of heavy sedimentation. Refer to Section 4.5 (page 4-19 through 4-20) of the GDBR Final EIS (BLM 2008a) for more information on potential impacts to vegetation.

Mitigation Measures for BLM Sensitive Plants

This EA is tiered to and incorporates the applicant-committed resource protection measures and mitigation measures included in Attachment 1 of the GDBR ROD (BLM 2008c). Refer to ??? of this EA for applicant-committed resource protection measures that are specific to the well pad and development in the Project Area.

Additional Mitigation Measures

- Site inventories (100% clearance surveys) would be conducted in potential habitat for horseshoe milkvetch within the survey window for the species established by the BLM (the A. equisolensis survey period is defined as April 15-May 15 (flowering period), or outside this window with approval from the BLM Authorized Officer). Surveys would be conducted by qualified personnel and would adhere to the survey protocols for the species established by the BLM. Site inventories would be performed within a 300-foot buffer around all proposed surface disturbance.
- Site inventory surveys would be valid for 4 years from the survey date. If more than 4 years pass between the original survey date and construction, a new clearance survey/site inventory would be required. If construction is to occur within the 4 year window, and at least 1 year after the initial survey date, an additional spot check survey would be required following the methodology established by BLM regarding horseshoe milkvetch survey data use timing restrictions. Review of spot checks may result in requirements for additional pre-construction plant surveys or other requirements as directed by the BLM Authorized Officer (AO).

4.3. No Action Alternative

4.3.1. Plants: BLM Sensitive

4.3.1.1. BLM Sensitive Plants

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no direct disturbance or indirect effects to horseshoe milkvetch from surface-disturbing activities. Refer to Section 4.5.1.2 (pages 4-23 to 4-25) in the GDBR Final EIS (BLM 2008a) for more information on soil and vegetation impacts under the No Action Alternative.

4.4. Reasonably Foreseeable Development and Cumulative Impacts Analysis

4.4.1. Cumulative Impacts

4.4.2. Plants: BLM Sensitive

Horseshoe milkvetch (*Astragalus equisolensis*)

The CIAA for Horseshoe milkvetch is the potential range of the species. This area covers approximately 72,868 acres on BLM, state of Utah, and privately held lands. Within the CIAA, there are approximately 243 miles of roads. Past, present and reasonably foreseeable disturbance from oil and gas will affect 3,050 acres (4.2% of the CIAA), as shown below. Cumulative impacts include dust impacts to plants, and plant and pollinator habitat destruction. Surface disturbance is a good indicator of the extent of these cumulative impacts.

Chapter 5. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted:

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Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Historic Preservation Act.	BLM recommended a No Effect determination based on Class III surveys and asked for concurrence on all of the wells listed in this EA. Concurrence was received, documentation of this can be found in the individual well/APD files.
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Goshute Indian Tribe, Zia Pueblo Tribe, White Mesa Ute Tribe, Navajo Nation, Northwest Band of Shoshone Tribe, Southern Ute Tribe, Eastern Shoshone Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe, Santa Clara Pueblo Tribe, and Pueblo of Laguna Tribe.	Consultation with Native American Tribes.	Tribal consultation for this area was done during preparation of the Greater Deadman Bench EIS (2004). No concerns were raised at that time.

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Chapter 6. List of Preparers

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Table 6.1. List of Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Kevin Sadlier	Natural Resource Specialist/ Environmental Scientist	Chapters 1 & 2
Christine Cimiluca	Natural Resource Specialist/ Environmental Scientist	Chapters 3 & 4: Plants

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Chapter 7. References Cited

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BLM. 2008. Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Vernal District Office.

BLM. 2008. Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Greater Deadman Bench Oil and Gas Producing Region Project, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Vernal District Office.

BLM. 2009. Green River District Reclamation Guidelines, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Vernal District Office.

Uintah County. 2011. Uintah County General Plan. Amended Number 02-27. i – xiv + 302 pp.

<http://www.fws.gov/utahfieldoffice/Documents/Plants/Handouts/Horseshoe%20Milkvetch%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf> . Accessed July 16, 2014.

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Appendix A. Interdisciplinary Team Checklist

Project Title: QEP Energy Company's RW 24–14AGR pipeline reroute

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2015–0110–EA

File/Serial Number: UTU-0569

Project Leader: Kevin Sadlier

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

Table A.1.

Deter- mina- tion	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signa- ture	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
NI	Air Quality/ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Dust and vehicle emissions would be generated during the project. However, impacts from emissions are expected to be short term (during construction only) and indistinguishable from background emissions as measured by monitors or predicted by models. Greenhouse gas emissions: No greenhouse gas standards have been established by EPA or other regulatory authorities. The assessment of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change is in its earliest stage. Global greenhouse gas models can be inconsistent, and localized models are lacking. Consequently, it is not technically feasible to quantify the net impacts to climate based on local greenhouse gas emissions. It is anticipated that greenhouse gas emissions associated with this action and its alternative(s) would be negligible.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/ 2015
NP	BLM Natural Areas	None are present in the project area per the Vernal Field Office RMP and GIS review.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/ 2015

Deter- mina- tion	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signa- ture	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
NP	Cultural: Archaeological Resources	Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.16(y) this project is considered to be an undertaking. The area of potential effect (APE) is defined as the polygon presented in the right-of-way application. Aros Archaeology conducted various Class I reports and a 100% pedestrian inventory over portions the project area. No cultural material was identified within the project area. A consultation letter was sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on July 17, 2014 recommending a "no historic properties effected" determination. We received their concurrence to our determination on July 24, 2014.	Erin Goslin	4/23/ 2015
NP	Cultural: Native American/ Religious Concerns	Tribal consultation was conducted under the Greater Deadman Bench EIS in 2008. No Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) are identified within the APEs. The proposed projects will not hinder access to or use of Native American religious sites.	Erin Goslin	4/23/ 2015
NP	Designated Areas: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	None are present in the project area per the Vernal Field Office RMP and GIS review.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/ 2015
NP	Designated Areas: Wild and Scenic Rivers	None are present in the project area per the Vernal Field Office RMP and GIS review.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/ 2015
NP	Designated Areas: Wilderness Study Areas	None are present in the project area per the Vernal Field Office RMP and GIS review.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/ 2015
NI	Environmental Justice	No minority or economically disadvantaged communities or populations would be disproportionately adversely affected by the proposed action or alternatives.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/ 2015
NP	Farmlands (prime/unique)	No prime or unique farmlands, as identified by the NRCS, based on soil survey data for the county are located in the project area; therefore, this resource will not be carried forward for analysis.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/ 2015
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	No fuel management activities planned for the project area. The proposed project would not conflict with fire management activities following GIS/field office review.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/ 2015
NI	Geology/Minerals/ Energy Production	The 2008 Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) lists oil, natural gas, Gilsomite, oil shale, tar sands, coal and phosphate as valuable leasable minerals in the field office area. It also identifies the occurrence of locatable minerals (gold, copper and uranium) and mineral materials (stone and aggregate). No significant impact to these resources is expected based on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depletion of oil and natural gas resources associated with the proposal are supported by the RMP and existing Federal leases. • No Gilsomite veins or locatable minerals occur in the project area as per GIS review. • Oil shale, tar sands, coal and phosphate may occur at depth, but would remain unaffected by the proposed surface disturbance. 	Justin Snyder	6/10/ 2015

Deter- mina- tion	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signa- ture	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mineral materials (aggregate) occur in the project area, but are not currently in use and will not be significantly impacted by the proposal. 		
IP/N- W: NI Soils: NI Veg: NI	Invasive Plants/ Noxious Weeds, Soils & Vegetation	The Proposed Action's disturbance of soils and vegetation would be negligible due to the method of construction. Building the pipeline on existing or previously approved disturbances and then booming the pipeline into place will crush some vegetation, but is not expected to have a impact on the vegetative community. Soils would not be disturbed to a degree as to promote the spread of invasive plants and noxious weeds.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/ 2015
NI	Lands/Access	The proposed project area is located within the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan area which allows for oil and gas development with associated road and pipeline right-of-ways. The proposed project is within QEP's Red Wash Unit. The Sundrys would be authorized under beneficial use of their lease; therefore, this project does not require a ROW.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/ 2015
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)	None are present in the project area per the Vernal Field Office RMP and GIS review.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/ 2015
NI	Livestock Grazing & Rangeland Health Standards	<p>Livestock Grazing: The proposed project is located within the Antelope Draw sheep and Split Mountain sheep and Cattle allotments. The allotments are seasonally permitted from October 1 to May 15 with up to 5621 AUMs. This area has many existing well sites and the proposed will have very little effect on the livestock grazing as the area is bisected by numerous roads and other oil and gas projects. The proposal is consistent with multiple use of public lands and other oil & gas activities in the area. It is not anticipated that this proposal would negatively impact grazing operations. There are no known range improvements in this allotment that would be impacted by this proposal.</p> <p>Rangeland health Standards: This proposal is within the Antelope Draw and Split Mountain Allotments. This proposal is not expected to affect Rangeland Health Standards in this allotment.</p>	Craig Newman	6/5/ 2015
NI	Paleontology	<p>No significant impact to paleontological resources is expected based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermountain Paleo-Consulting performed a field survey (report dated October 21, 2014) and recommended that no paleontological restrictions be placed on the project. This was based on the fact that 1) no paleontological resources were discovered and 2) the geologic setting did not have an elevated potential to yield significant resources (Potential Fossil Yield Classification 3a) The VFO standard condition of approval for paleontological resources will be applied to the project. That is, if any paleontological resources are discovered during 	Justin Snyder	6/10/ 2015

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
		construction, any activities which would affect them will cease and the BLM Authorized Officer will be notified.		
PI	Plants: BLM Sensitive	<p>The following UT BLM Sensitive plant species have been identified in or near the Project Area:</p> <p>Suitable habitat for Horseshoe milkvetch (<i>Astragalus equisoleensis</i>) is present throughout the Project Area and individuals and populations of this species historically documented in the Project Area per BLM GIS review. However, QEP conducted clearance surveys and no individuals or populations of horseshoe milkvetch were observed in the areas proposed for development (Bowen Collins 2014).</p>	Christine Cimiluca	6/10/2015
NI	Plants: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate	<p>The following threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate plant species are expected within the same or an adjacent subwatershed: Uinta Basin hookless cactus (<i>Sclerocactus wetlandicus</i>).</p> <p>This species occurs primarily along the Green River, the White River, and their tributaries. The Project Area is not located along these rivers or tributaries and lacks the coarse soils derived from cobble and gravel river terrace deposits in which this species is generally found (USFWS 2012).</p> <p>The Project Area is located outside the 2013 potential habitat polygon for <i>Sclerocactus</i> spp. established by USFWS. In addition, soil models show low to no potential for <i>Sclerocactus</i> spp. to occur in the Project Area.</p> <p>No suitable habitat is present within the Project Area. Threatened and endangered vegetation surveys were conducted in the Project Area in 2014 (Bowen Collins 2014). The vegetation surveys did not observe any Uinta Basin hookless cactus individuals within the Project Area.</p>	Christine Cimiluca	6/10/2015
NP	Plants: Wetland/Riparian	None are present in the project area per the Vernal Field Office RMP and GIS review.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/2015
NI	Recreation	Proposed project is in a developed area with numerous infrastructures currently in place. Recreation access will not be restricted by the proposed project.	Keivn Sadlier	6/2/2015
NI	Socioeconomics	No impact to the social or economic status of the county or nearby communities would occur from this project due to its small size in relation to ongoing development throughout the Basin.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/2015

Deter- mina- tion	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signa- ture	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
NI	Visual Resources	The proposed project is in a VRM Class IV area, per the Vernal Field Office GIS Data Base & RMP/ROD. A contrast rating worksheet was not completed as the area has not been identified within class III sensitive areas which are the current standard for site visits with VRM evaluations taking place. Class IV objective states: The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements. The proposal will follow existing form, line and texture in the landscape, but will contrast in color temporarily with the landscape. The contrast in color, form, line and texture is within the class IV objectives.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/2015
NI	Wastes (hazardous/solid)	Hazardous Waste: No chemicals subject to reporting under SARA Title III in an amount equal to or greater than 10,000 pounds will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of annually in association with the project. Solid Wastes: Trash would be confined in a covered container and hauled to an approved landfill. Burning of waste or oil would not be done. Human waste would be contained and be disposed of at an approved sewage treatment facility.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/2015
NP	Water: Floodplains	None are present in the project area per the Vernal Field Office RMP and GIS review.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/2015
NI	Water: Groundwater Quality	No significant impact to groundwater is expected based on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No underground sources of drinking water, as defined in 40 CFR 144.3, have been identified by the EPA or the State of Utah in the project area.• The shallowest useable water (<10,000 ppm Total Dissolved Solids) reported in wells in the area occurs at depths below which any impact from a pipeline could be expected (5,195 ft depth in the well Red Wash 169 (21–35A)).• In the arid environment of the Uinta Basin shallow groundwater is normally only expected in association with surface waters. Impacts will be similar to those described in the sections of this checklist regarding Stormwater, Surface Water Quality, Floodplains, Waters of the U.S. and Wastes (all “NI” or “NP” determinations).	Justin Snyder	6/10/2015
NI	Water: Hydrologic Conditions (stormwater)	The proposed construction of the pipeline would alter the topography of the area to a small degree. It is not expected that surface water or stormwater would be created to the level of concern for Clean Water Act Section 402 (stormwater) review. In addition federal law has exempted energy development from stormwater requirements.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/2015

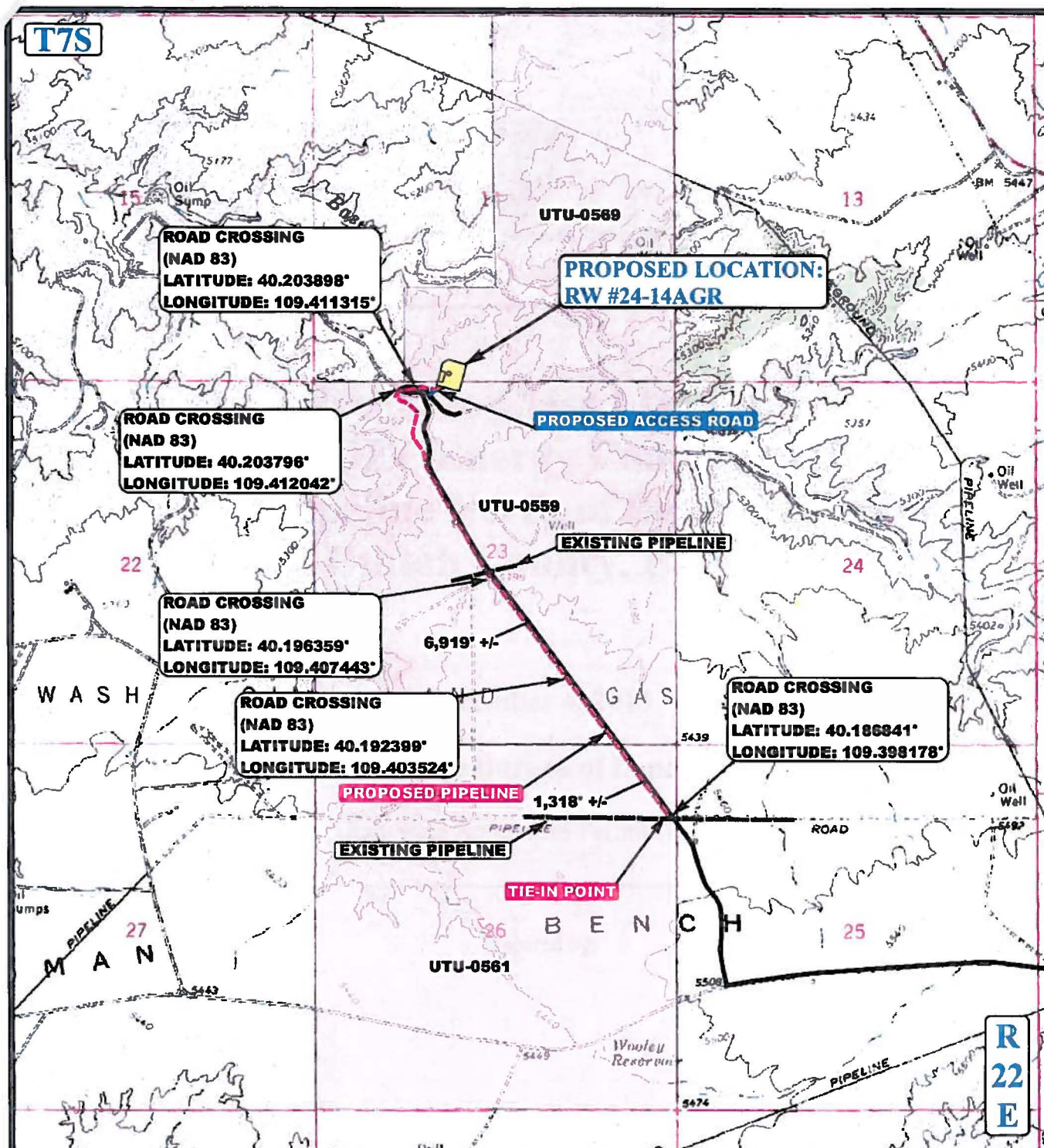
Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
NI	Water: Surface Water Quality	Surface Waters: The only potential for the proposed project to negatively impact water quality would be increased potential for chemical spills or increased disturbance to surface soils which could cause soil erosion. This would not be expected to occur in a way that would be a relevant impact to surface waters. The site is in an upland area and more than 3 miles from perennial waters.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/2015
NP	Water: Waters of the U.S.	Waters of the U.S. are not present per USGS topographic map and GIS data review. The proposed project would not impact any drainage where a high water mark can be distinguished, drainages which regularly run water, or wetlands/riparian areas, per onsite.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/2015
NP	Wild Horses	No herd areas or herd management areas are present in the project area per BLM GIS database.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/2015
NI	Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)	Original NEPA is adequate for the proposed project, along with the applicant committed measures in Chapter 2.	Dixie Sadlier	6/3/2015
NI	Wildlife: Non-USFWS Designated	Original NEPA is adequate for the proposed project, along with the applicant committed measures in Chapter 2.	Dixie Sadlier	6/3/2015
NI	Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate	Original NEPA is adequate for the proposed project, along with the applicant committed measures in Chapter 2.	Dixie Sadlier	6/3/2015
NP	Woodlands/Forestry	None present per 2008 Vernal RMP and ROD/GIS layer review.	Kevin Sadlier	6/2/2015

Table A.2.

FINAL REVIEW:			
Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator	/s/ Kelly Buckner	6/11/2015	
Authorized Officer	/s/ Jerry Kenczka	6/11/2015	

Appendix B.

Approved in sundry: 7/22/2014



APPROXIMATE TOTAL PIPELINE DISTANCE = 8,237' +/-

LEGEND:

- EXISTING ROADS
- PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD
- - - PROPOSED PIPELINE
- EXISTING PIPELINE

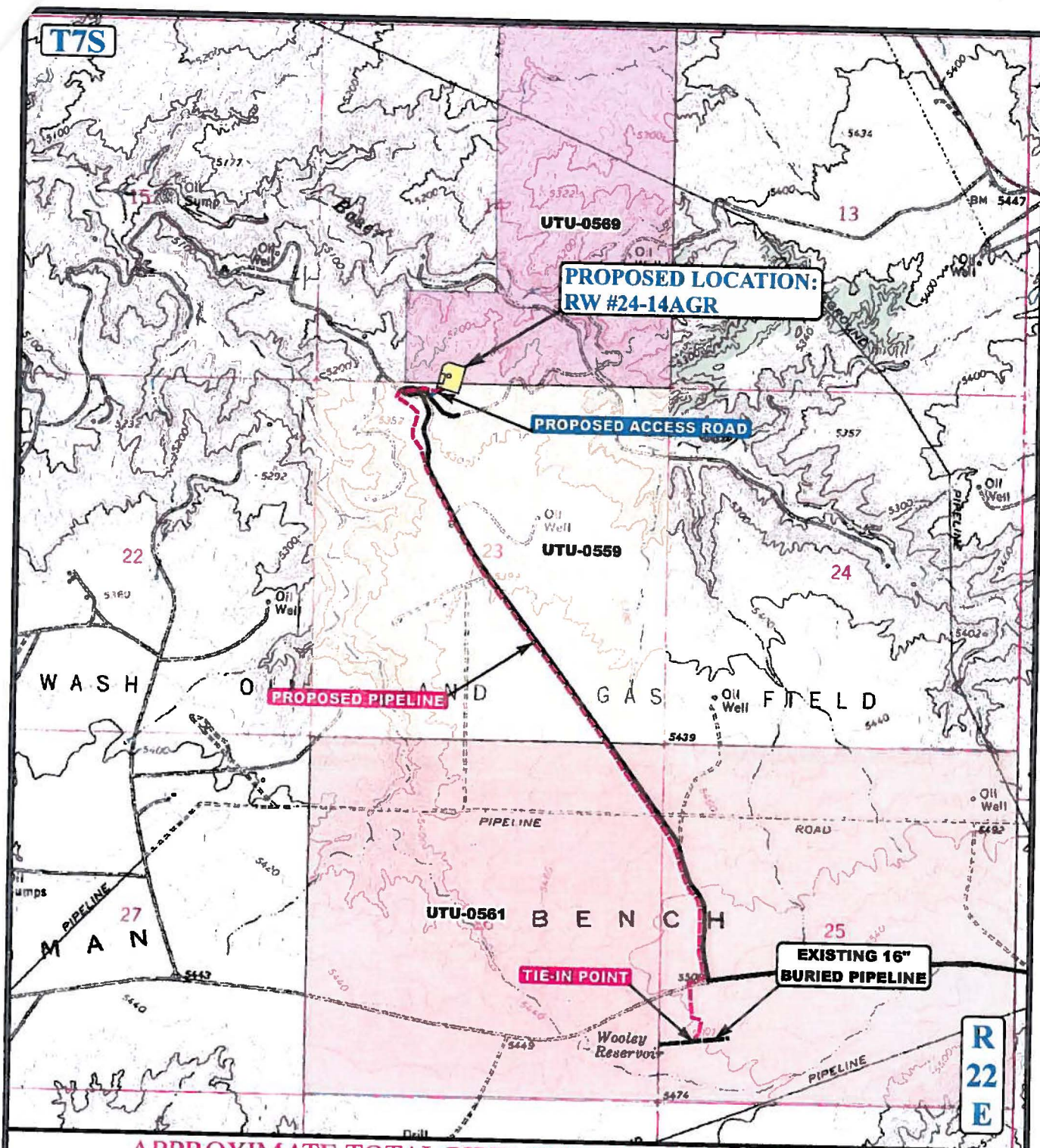


QEP ENERGY COMPANY

RW #24-14AGR
SECTION 14, T7S, R22E, S.L.B.&M.
85' FSL 1983' FWL

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Appendix C.



APPROXIMATE TOTAL PIPELINE DISTANCE = 12,004' +/-

LEGEND:

- EXISTING ROADS
- PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD
- PROPOSED PIPELINE
- EXISTING PIPELINE

N

QEP ENERGY COMPANY

RW #24-14AGR

SECTIONS 14, 23, 25 & 26 T7S, R22E, S.L.B.&M.
JUNTAH COUNTY, UTAH